Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association

THE MYCOPHILE

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Venez à NAMA 2003—Québec!

Mycology fans from all over North America will hold a rendezvous in Québec during the Labor Day weekend of 2003.

The Province of Québec is a large territory whose population (7,000,000) is mostly concentrated along the St. Lawrence River.

Mycology is a very popular hobby in this Province, where six groups of amateur mycologists, representing over 2000 members, are active and united under the Association de mycologie du Québec (AMQ). Of these, the Cercle des mycologues de Montréal (CMM), perhaps the most important single group in North America, annually has a membership of roughly 1,000 members.

September is the best time of year to find mushrooms in the Northeast. During the 1998 Northeast Mycological Federation Foray, also held around Québec City, 470 different species of mushrooms were collected.

The Foray site is less than 20 minutes from Québec City. Founded almost 400 years ago, Québec City is is not only the oldest Canadian city, but, with its fortified walls and gates, its winding streets, its market places and old houses, it is also considered the most European city in North America.

Quite different are the lower city, at the banks of the St. Lawrence River, and the upper city, on the cliffs towering above the majestic river with its fort, the Citadelle de Québec, and the dominating Château Frontenac.

Then there is the splendor of the distant falls of Montmorency, the park-like scenery of Point Levis, the beautiful Isle of Orleans, and the lofty range of purple mountains of a most picturesque form scarcely to be surpassed in any part of the world.

"What do I like the most when I come to Québec City?" considers Peterjürgen Neumannof the CMM. "I like to stroll in the small streets of the lower city. I like to walk along the Promenade des Gouverneurs, which leads to the cliffs of Cape Diamond, where the Citadelle is located.

"I like to take the ferry that carries me to Levis on the other side of St. Lawrence, which gives me a dazzling view on the upper and lower cities and also on the fortifications of the city of Levis.

"I like an outing and the good eating in one of the countless gourmet restaurants which are responsible for the gastronomic reputation of Québec City.

"I like to visit the museums, especially the Musée de la Civilisation, which impresses by its design and the concepts of its exhibitions. To make it short, I like Québec. It is a marvelous city, a beautiful city. If you come to NAMA, take a couple of days to stay in the region. There are such a lot of exciting places to visit."

Editor's note: In the March/April MYCOPHILE we printed photos of some species usually found in the Forests of southern Québec in September. These photos were by Jean Després, from the CD *Mille et un champignons du Québec,* edited by the *CMM.*

Dues are due!

THE MYCOPHILE is getting back on schedule, back to having color photos; McIlvainea *is to be published twice a year, and possibly also with color; and a number of interesting and exotic forays are planned. Several new program offerings are available, with more in the works. Don't miss any of it. Make sure your dues are in!*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annual Foray

Have you registered for NAMA '03, the annual foray/meeting? To guarantee a place and save $35, be sure to register before August 1. The bilingual annual meeting will be held over Labor Day weekend, 20 km southwest of Québec City. See information and the registration form elsewhere in this issue.

Elections

At this business meeting NAMA will select a new President, for the term 2004–'06. We will also be electing four regional trustees: Region III (NC, SC, GA, FL, PR, VI), now held by Ken Crouse; Region V (MI, WI, OH, IN, IL), now held by Walt Sturgeon; Region X (WY, UT, CO, AZ, NM), now held by Dave Wallis; and Region XII (Canada, except BC), now held by Peter Neumann. All NAMA members attending NAMA '03 are eligible to vote. To be elected a regional trustee you must live in the region. If you want to know more about any of these positions, contact First VP Bob Fulgency, Chair of the Nominating Committee, at <robjoful@aol.com>.

Regional Foray

Allein Stanley, former NAMA President, will again coordinate the ongoing regional foray in Wild Acres, NC. It is a very special place, and the foray always gets great reviews. Limited to 40, this year's Wild Acres Foray will be held Sept. 11–14, '03. See information elsewhere in this issue, or contact Allein at <astanley@i-america.net>.

Happy hunting!

—*Phyllis*

NAMA has recently learned of the death of Frank Hoffman on April 10 at his home in Toronto, Canada. Recently retired from the U.S. Air Force, Frank was 60 years old. A loyal and enthusiastic mycophile and NAMA member, Frank often rode his motorcycle to attend forays throughout the U.S. and Mexico. Last January he and his fiancée, Louise Levine, also attended NAMA's exotic foray on the Big Island in Hawai'i—but for that foray he left his bike home! Frank was the NAMA representative from the Mycological Society of Toronto, a willing volunteer, and a devoted friend to many of us: he will be sorely missed. Our hearts go out to Frank's friends and family.

Doing what he loved best (photo by Louise Levine)

Moving?

Please send your new address, two weeks before you move, to

Ann Bornstein
NAMA Membership Secretary
336 Lenox Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610-4675
<Membership@namyco.org>

Otherwise—

You may not be getting your newsletter for a while. Each issue, several *Mycophiles* are returned as undeliverable because of no forwarding address on file. NAMA is charged *sixty cents* for each returned or forwarded newsletter.

NAMA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions to support the scientific and educational activities of the Association are always welcome and may be deductible as allowed by law. Gifts of any amount may be made for special occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries, and for memorials.

Special categories include

Friend of NAMA: $500–900
Benefactor: $1000–4900
Patron: $5000 and up

Send contributions to
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FORAYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telluride Mushroom Festival

August 21–24, 2003

Always fun, always wacky activities, but also with a long list of very knowledgeable and interesting people exploring all facets of fungi—taxonomy, cultivation, health (both mental and physical), literature and photography. Contact www.telluride.com/mushroom.

Tlaxcala Mushroom Excursion

August 24–31

Expect a week of forays, identification sessions, talks, gourmet dinners. Past participants have raved about the beautiful mountain locations, food, sessions, and leaders. Information: <gundi@mexmush.com>.

NEMF—Sam Ristich Foray

September 11, 2003

To be held at Oquaga Lake, Deposit, NY. For information, visit www.nemf.org/files/2003.html.

COMA—Clark Rogerson Foray

September 18–21, 2003

To be held at Salmon River Forest, Hebron, CT. For information, contact <Steve_rock_0916@yahoo.com>.

Missouri Mycological Society

September 18–21, 2003

MOMS Annual Foray—Mingo Swamp, a fascinating place!!! Drs. J. Bruhn, Rosanne Healy, Walt Sundberg, Andy Methven, Jeanne Mihail, and Robert Gesser are among the mycologists participating. Contact Maxine Stone at <VeryMaxine@aol.com> or Charlie Raiser at <Charlieraiser@aol.com>.

Priest Lake Annual Foray

September 26–28, 2003

Hill's Resort, overlooking beautiful Priest Lake in northern Idaho, will again be the setting for mushroom gathering and identifying as hosted by the Spokane Mushroom Club, from nearby Spokane, Washington. This has been an annual affair commencing with the first national foray west of the Mississippi River in 1966.

The Saturday evening speaker will be Dr. Michael Beug, who will speak on mushrooms of the Priest Lake area. Dr. Beug is professor emeritus at Evergreen State College and currently serves as president of the Pacific Northwest Key Council, a mushroom education organization.

The Friday evening speaker will be Dr. Paul Przybylowicz, of Evergreen State College. The title of his presentation will be "Liking Lichens: Confessions of a Bark Browser."

To those of you who have not attended this foray we promise a beautiful setting, comfortable accommodations, delicious meals at the resort and, with the cooperation of the weather, a wide variety of mushrooms to be brought in for identification. Normally some 100–150 different species are identified. Contact Spokane Mushroom Club, P.O. Box 2791, Spokane, WA 91220 for registration blanks; call 509-328-7973; or e-mail our registrar, Jo, at <jode@libby.org> or identifier, Lynda, at <lmforeman@juno.com>.

Foray Italy

September 10–October 5

This year the ever popular and fun Italian foray led by Albert Casciero heads to Val d'Asosta and the Piedmont region. For all the details, contact <casciero@wrlc.org.>

Wildacres Foray

October 2–5, 2003

Contact Dr. Andy Methven for information: <cfasm@eiu.edu>. Wildacres is a limited, NAMA-sponsored foray in a delightful retreat close to exciting collecting. The registration form online at www.namyco.org, and it will also appear in the next MYCOPHILE.

New Keys Available

The Cercle des mycologues de Montréal (CMM) has produced several illustrated keys to some of the fungi and recently a new key to *Tricholoma* with photos for each species found in Québec. You may find some at this year's annual foray. You can preview them—and order some if you are interested—at www.mycomontreal.qc.ca. Peter-jürgen Neumann says that laminated versions will be available at the foray. The text is in English.

NAMA members are invited to visit www .mycomontreal.qc .catricho/home .htm.

Mexican Mushrooms

"I am a research mycologist at the Universidad Veracruzana in Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico. We are electronically publishing our collection *Funga Veracruzana*. Up to now we have published 80 fascicles about the fungal biodiversity of our state; the last 40 fascicles are the smallest in size, in PDF format. Almost all the Funga Veracruzana collection are in www.uv.mx/institutos/forest/hongos/funga-vera/index.html."

Submitted by Armando Lopez, Research Mycologist, APDO POSTAL 222, Instituto de Genetica Forestal, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa 91000, Veracruz, Mexico. E-mail <armlopez@uv.mx> (office); <alopezr57@hotmail.com> (home).

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Forays and Announcements,
continued from page 3

Losses

Longtime NAMA member ***Larry Lonik,*** "The Mushroom Man," has died. As reported in the Illinois Mycological Association Newsletter, *Fungus Friends,* Larry died while picking morels with friends. He was an avid mushroomer but really loved morels. He also published several interesting and informative books on morels and some on wild foods, including *Basically Morels, Mushroom Hunting, Cooking, Lore & Advice, The Curious Morel, Morels, True or False, The Essential Field Guide and More,* and *The Healthy Taste of Honey, Recipes Anecdotes and Lore*. We are sorry to see you go, but may you never run out of morel patches!

The Mid Hudson Mycological Association of Highland, New York, has lost one of its charter members, ***Rae (Dolly) Rhodes,*** at 87 years young. She was its treasurer and membership chair for years, led walks, and helped new members learn mushroom ways. She attended NMA and NEMF forays as well as local ones and loved mushrooms in all their glory.

Dr. Benjamin Resigns

Dr. Denis Benjamin, our Toxicology Chair, has asked to be replaced. He is stepping down as he feels that, with his work load, he is not able to give the position the time it deserves. He states, "This position needs someone who is involved in mycology on a day-to-day or at least weekly basis. Because of my relative mycological isolation in Texas, I cannot offer NAMA the kind of leadership that is needed to make the toxicology committee a vital part of the organization. . . . I will obviously continue to participate in NAMA and provide assistance when and where I can." Dr. Benjamin has been an *excellent* chair. We will miss him.

Dr. Michael Beug has been selected to take Denis's position. Dr. Beug is an emeritus professor of chemistry, mycology, and environmental studies at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. He has long been active with regional mushroom societies and has provided many of the photographs and programs in NAMA's educational slide program series. He is a good choice.

What Next?

From Marilyn Shaw in Denver, comes this wry anecdote:

"Be prepared for politically correct mushroom names. I have been corresponding with Nathan Wilson in the LA area regarding a recent *Amanita phalloides* poisoning there. I had excerpted his last report in LAMS' *The Sporeprint*, for our CMS *Spores Afield* and sent him a copy for his approval. It was a Word.doc which I had titled A.phal.doc:. To my surprise, his ISP refused delivery, warning my attachment contained a virus. I realized that, rather than a virus, the spam filter interpreted it as pornography. They caught me! What shall we call it in the future? What shall we call *A. vaginata*? And who knows how many others?"

You never know where a familiar face will pop up. I've been a longtime subscriber to *Consumer Reports* and use it extensively to research items I might be purchasing, but never read ads or recognize people in their photos.

In the June 2003 issue there was a photo of a very familiar face in the promo for the Consumers Union Charitable Trust—Ann Bornstein!

Ann is one of those very kind and helpful people who reach out to others in many ways. She's helping to see that CU keeps on testing and making products better for all of us. Nice going, Ann. —*Ed.*

From Donna Mitchell and Bill Roody:

"The following is in response to the article 'From the ABFG Journal, Winter 2002' in the January/February 2003 issue of The Mycophile:

"The WV Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Diversity Program (WV DNR) recognizes not only the importance of cataloging the plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates of the state, but the fungi as well. In 1997, the WV DNR published the *Preliminary Checklist of Macrofungi and Myxomycetes of West Virginia*, by Steven L. Stephenson and William Roody. This work was predominately based on records from literature and from the author's personal experience. The next goal was to document, with voucher specimens, as many of those records as possible and add new records to the list.

"In 1998, the Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV, agreed to curate WV fungus collections. Since that time, with assistance from experienced field mycologists Emily Johnson, Walt Sturgeon, members of the Mycological Association of Washington, and other amateur mushroomers around the state, we have vouchered more than 3,600 collections. After several more seasons of collecting, we hope to produce an atlas of the macrofungi of WV.

"In reference to your comment that the Oregon State University has a 'fairly complete database of the Pacific Northwest,' it should be noted that they also accept hypogeous fungi from around the country (and world). When collecting hypogeous fungi in WV, if there are multiple sporocarps, we send part of the collection to Jim Trappe for identification confirmation and to accession in the OSC herbarium, while the remainder is kept for the herbarium in WV. For more information contact Bill Roody <wroody@dnr.state.wv .us> or Donna Mitchell <dmitchell @dnr.state.wv.us>, WV Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241 or Michelle Mabry <mabrym@dne.edu>, Biology and

Environmental Science Department, Davis and Elkins College, 100 Campus Drive, Elkins, WV 26241."

New Editor Urgently Needed

THE MYCOPHILE is a great little publication to edit and assemble, and you don't need a lot of publishing experience, although it can be helpful. The job entails receiving information from members (most send in material with no prompting), reading it over and putting into concise form, determining the amount of material for each issue, and making sure certain items are published at the appropriate times. The material is then sent to an assembly editor who puts it in print-ready shape; you proofread, approve, and return (all via email), then the other editor sends it to the printer. I currently have too many responsibilities to do the job it deserves, and I need a break. After a number of years, a new editor brings fresh insight and approach. Please contact me! It is a great way to keep in touch with the membership and know what is going on in all corners of NAMAland! *—Judy Roger, Editor*

Kudos for the Hawaiian Foray

We normally don't publish entire letters, but this one falls into the area of reporting a great NAMA activity and expressing hopes for more of the kind. It has been exerpted for brevity.—Ed.

April 7, 2003

Dear Phyllis,

After reading your President's [message in the] January/February MYCOPHILE, I felt remiss in not having thanked you for organizing what Pete and I found to be a fascinating foray to Hawaii as well as an enchanting vacation. . . .

Don Hemmes was a perfect guide. He is not only a Hawaiian natural history evangelist but also a born teacher. I admired the fact that there was no hand-wringing on his part about the lack of fungi, only an enthusiastic enlargement of the focus. He couldn't have been nicer or more accommodating—to everyone; this certainly added to the pleasure of the trip for us.

The accommodations were perfect. I have by this time told dozens of people about the free breakfast coffee with free back-yard bananas and papayas. . . .

Hawaii was an inspired location for a foray. The fact that Don's excellent book had just been published made it seem all the more topical and appropriate. The fact that we'd never been there surely made it a truly exotic foray for us; *everything* we saw was new and exotic. The enormous range of contrasting countryside within such easy driving distance of Hilo was great. I've been to a number of forays where you spend the greatest percentage of the day on a bus. Not true in Hilo.

We are hoping that a foray to the Canary Islands

Continued on page 6

Phytophthora Collection in Danger of Disappearing

From a Press Release dated May 28, 2003:

The World Phytophthora Collection at the University of California, Riverside, is facing destruction in less than two months. With the drastic budget cuts facing the University of California, this irreplaceable collection, which is over 40 years old, may be lost forever in just another few months.

The World Phytophthora Collection at UCR currently contains about 5000 isolates representing at least 70 distinct taxonomic species or groups. These isolates are from worldwide sources and a broad range of hosts. The collection is a unique world resource for research on *Phytophthora,* one of the most devastating plant pathogens on this planet. As such, it is the only large comprehensive collection of genetic diversity representative of this extremely important group of plant pathogens. It was started around 1962 and has become the only major depository for isolates collected throughout the world. Since 1981 it has been under the curatorship of Professor Michael D. Coffey, and in the last 15 years it has increased dramatically both in size and genetic diversity.

The collection also includes a genetically diverse collection of isolates of *Phytophthora infestans,* cause of late blight in both potatoes and tomatoes. This species is one of the most dangerous plant pathogens in the world. The appearance of Sudden Oak Death, caused by *P. ramorum,* and the possibility of its global impact on oaks and other important hosts has caught the eye of government, media and scientists.

Current status of the collection

In the last 15 years the collection has increased from just over 900 (October 1987) to about 5,000 accessions (September 2002). Since 1986 the collection has been preserved under liquid nitrogen using cryogenic techniques. It is now "housed" in 4 liquid nitrogen storage refrigerators with automated alarm systems. Recently, we received a comprehensive collection of additional genetic reference strains of *P. infestans* from Professor William Fry, Cornell University, and Professor Jean Ristaino, North Carolina State University.

Significance of the collection

The World Phytophthora Collection is the only major germplasm resource for research into this extremely important plant pathogen. A comprehensive searchable database is maintained on its own server (http://phytophthora.ucr.edu) and allows for printout by accession number or by species.

Submitted by Prof. Michael David Coffey, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521. ***Is there any way pressure can be exerted to retain this collection? —Ed.***

Dogs and Cats Eat Mushrooms?

This spring, in the Western Oregon region, there have been a great number of mushroom poisonings in animals—dogs mostly, but also cats. I have also fielded several calls from people in other parts of the country who were panicked that their pet had eaten a mushroom and found my phone number from the NAMA website. When I have mentioned this problem to others, they are astounded to hear that pets eat mushrooms—especially cats, since they are so finicky. The general lack of knowledge prompts this piece.

If you really think about animal behavior, it is not that surprising. Dogs, and puppies in particular, will sample many things in their environment: they pick up and mouth rocks, sticks, plants, and—mushrooms. It is mostly a sensory stimulation and sampling behavior as they explore their surroundings. In older dogs, mushroom eating may be due to boredom or may be caused by the appealing (to animals!) odors given off by the mushrooms, especially as the fungi start to senesce. Inocybes are great ones for fishy or fermented odors, and a decomposing *Amanita pantherina* is quite pungent.

You can pull some interesting articles and facts from the Internet (for instance, at http://communities.prodigy.net/pets, www.purelypets.com/healthalert/lethalmushroom.htm, and www.all-creatures.org), where there is quite a bit of material about animal poisonings.

The main points are that it is important to keep an eye on your pets while they are outside, and that no yard is without fungi of some sort throughout the year. Also, because most pets are small and have a fairly rapid metabolism, mushroom toxins work more quickly in them than in humans. It takes only a very small amount (one small *Inocybe* or only a couple of bites from an *Amanita*) to seriously compromise or kill a pet.

Think your dog has a cast iron gut? Think again when it comes to *Inocybe, Amanita, Galerina, Clitocybe, Entoloma,* and several other genera. One specimen is enough to put an under-40 lb. dog in critical care at the vet hospital. In one case I responded to this spring, the cat had eaten only two bites of a rather aged *Amanita pantherina* cap and within half an hour the poor animal was staggering and frothing at the mouth, had dilated and unfocused eyes, and was seizuring. A Boston terrier died within a few hours after ingesting a couple small *Inocybe geophylla* caps. A boxer nearly died after eating an *Inocybe sp.* and an *Entoloma* (*Nolanea*) *sericium*.

Many of the toxic fungi attack the nervous system or soft tissue organs; and in a small animal, breakdown occurs rapidly. Usually there is a lot of liver or pancreatic damage, sometimes for life if not caught quickly or if several specimens were ingested.

What can you do? If you have pets, watch for any fungi that sprout in your flower beds and lawns *at all seasons.* Some very potent toxic fungi will fruit when our favorite edibles are snuggled down for their long winter's nap. Collect them and learn to identify them or get them identified at your club meetings. Learn as many of the toxic fungi in your area as you can. No yard is immune to fungi!!!

If you think your pet has ingested something of this nature, get the animal to the vet immediately. Even in your panic, try to take along a sample of what it ate. The clinic usually gives a charcoal solution to the animal or may pump its stomach. Learn whether you have a Poison Control Center in your town. If so, urge that they be contacted, as they can put your vet in touch with someone who can identify the mushroom if you can't and also tell them what chemicals are involved. This speeds up treatment and may save the life of your pet. Poison Control has access to the national poisoning database (to which NAMA has had significant input). They are also very supportive and can direct you to veterinary specialists or local mycologists who can identify the fungus. *—Judy Roger*

Inocybe—almost lethal to Dylan the Boxer

Hawai'i Foray Feedback, *continued from page 5*

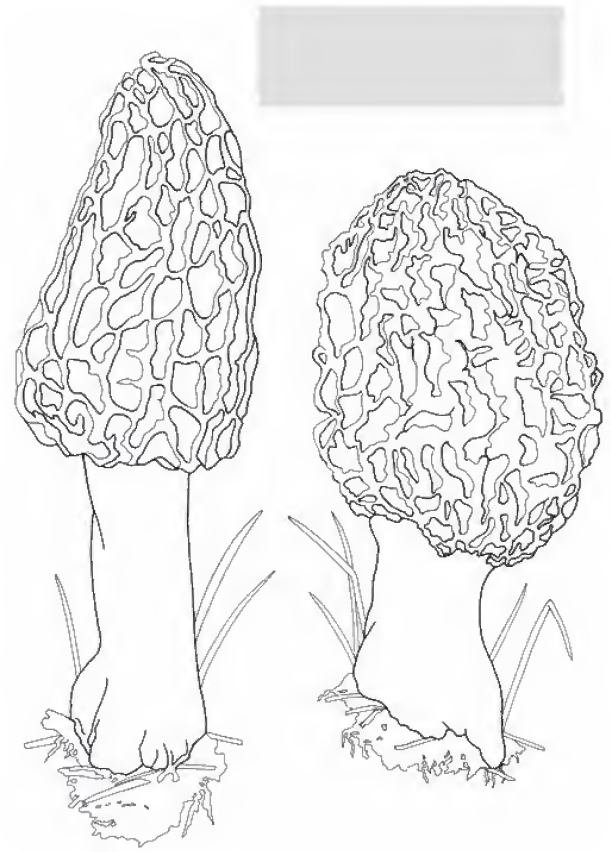
happens. At NEMF a few years ago we saw a slide presentation of Canary Island mushrooming given by Bill Roody. It looked like a mushroom paradise. Bill would make a super leader! Do you think enough people would ever sign up to go as far as New Zealand for an exotic foray? When Pete and I went there to attend the Australasian Foray three years ago (after seeing it advertised in The Mycophile), we made a number of contacts. Tell Lee that we'd be glad to help organize something if that country were ever on NAMA's radar. A salute to you, and many thanks for a lovely, memorable foray. *—Kitty Griffith*

Well, everyone—how 'bout it? —Ed.

M IS FOR MORELS IN MAY

These are morels. Lots of people (including me) think they are the best of all edible fungi. They grow in Spring across much of North America, but they are common only in a few areas, of which the best known is Michigan. Remember that 'May is Morel Month in Michigan' -- even their scientific name, **Morchella** (More-kella), begins with an 'M'. Every year, the National Mushroom Hunting Championship is held at Boyne City, Michigan, on Mother's Day weekend. The all-time record for the 90-minute hunt is an awesome 900 morels. But even a few morels will turn soup, an omelette, or a steak into something special.

Fortunately, morels are easy to recognize: the ridged and pitted cap is unique. But it is important to be able to tell them apart from the poisonous false morel, **Gyromitra** (J-eye-row-mit-rah), which comes up at the same time. The cap of the false morel has irregular folds, rather than ridges and pits. The same rule applies as with any other mushroom you think you might like to eat: before you can decide, you must know **exactly** what it is. If you aren't absolutely sure, leave it alone.



Taken from
A Young Person's Guide to the Fungi,
by Bryce Kendrick

NAMA Photo Contest '03—
Something New Has Been Added

It is time to look through your photographs for those special moments that captured a woodland beauty. The annual contest is always a popular feature of NAMA's meetings because it is a real feast for the eyes to see what others have found. Enter your best efforts to share them with the rest if us. The winning slides will then be published in THE MYCOPHILE.

Because of the popularity of digital cameras, this year we are adding a new venue—digital photos! Dean Abel and Damian Pieper have written some special instructions to be followed for your entries since they will not go on the published form on the next page.

NAMA Digital Photo Contest

The Photography Committee will sponsor a new digital category for the 2003 Photo Contest. In addition to the traditional format of 35mm slides, contestants may submit digital images of mushrooms and other fungi (including myxomycetes).

Note that this year there will be two Photo Contests: the traditional contest for 35mm slides and the inauguration of the digital image contest. The contests will be judged separately and in accordance with their different rules.

For the digital image contest, contestants may submit no more than six entries. Digital entries will not be separated into divisions (limited, open) or into categories (pictorial, documentary, judges' option) as in the contest for 35mm slides. The judges will be asked to select the best images in categories of their choosing.

Images will be hosted on a Yahoo Photo Album. Advertising may accompany images posted in this manner, but this is a cheap, quick way to experiment with a digital contest. We do not know how many entries to expect or what unforeseen problems may arise. Please direct all questions, comments, and suggestions to the digital contest director Damian Pieper at <namphocon@yahoo.com> (short for NAMA Photo Contest).

Images should be sent as attachments to the contest email address above. Images are preferred in jpeg (.jpg) format. Files as big as 1–2 MB will be resized to fit the format of Yahoo Photo Album pages. Images will not otherwise be adjusted or edited.

Our experience is that "saved for the web" files look fine on the computer screen. It is not our intention to print glossy photographs from these files. If there is a problem, we will try to contact you by email before posting your images in the album.

Shortly after August 1 the images in the Photo Album will be made public, and anyone may view them at http://photos.yahoo.com/namphocon. NAMA members may vote for a People's Choice Award by sending their preference to namphocon *before* August 15. You must be a member of NAMA to vote, and you must include your name and address in your email.

Deadline for entries is August 1. To help cover expenses, a $3.00 contest entry fee made out to NAMA must be sent separately by regular mail to the

Photography Committee, c/o Dean Abel
Biological Sciences
University of Iowa
Iowa City IA 52242-1324.

On Finding a Mushroom

One day I picked a mushroom
that was growing in my yard.
I showed it to my mother
and she scolded me so hard

For touching things I did not know
that might have made me ill.
But my interest was not restrained
and would not leave me still.

So I searched my local library
and there I found some books
which told me all about the fungi
growing everywhere one looks.

Some grow on soil, on food, or feet,
while others favor rotting trees.
Some are deadly, not to eat,
but others help in making cheese.

I also learned this vital fact
The tiny fungi known as mold
Help digest dead plants and animals
To feed new life that springs from old.

And did you know that some make drugs
Which help us fight infection?
While others work hard to make
Our breads and wines perfection.

And here's one more delightful fact,
Some 'shrooms yield brilliant dyes
To brightly color all your yarns
With many hues to please your eyes.

So now my mother joins me
and we each other teach
the fungi's colors, shapes and sizes
as we learn the names of each.

—C. W. Dingman

NAMA Photo Contest Entry Form

Name: **Initials:**

Address:

Home Phone: ( ) **Work Phone: ( )** **E-mail:**

Classification: Limited [ ] Open [ ]

Entry Titles

Pictorial (Limited to 6 entries)

P–1:	**P–4:**
P–2:	**P–5:**
P–3:	**P–6:**

Documentary (Limited to 6 entries)

D–1:	**D–4:**
D–2:	**D–5:**
D–3:	**D–6:**

Judges' Option (Limited to 3 entries)

JO–1:

JO–2:

JO–3:

Entry fee enclosed (circle one, and add $2.00 for glass mounts	$2.00 (1–6 slides)	$3.00 (7–12 slides)	$4.00 (13 or more slides)

Mail securely packaged slides, this entry form, and entry fee (check payable to NAMA) to:

Dean Abel
Biological Sciences – 141 BB
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
Ph. (h) (319) 354-3510; (w) (319) 335-1070
e-mail: <dean-abel@uiowa.edu>

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2003.
NAMA reserves the right to post images of the winning slides on the NAMA website.

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Campus Notre-dame-de-Foy. Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures.
Friday August 29 to Monday September 1

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Registration Form - USA residents

Registration deadline: August 1, 2003
Refund if cancelled before August 15: 80%.

Last Name:_____ First Name:_____
Last Name:_____ First Name:_____
Children (under 12): First Names _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Province/State:_____ Postal/Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ Club :_____
Email: _____

Registration Fees in US $	Per Person	Number	Total
Complete package: adult [1]	$250		$
child [2]	$100		$
Arrival on Thur. Aug. 28, additional [3]	$ 70		$
Activities only [4] without banquet	$100		$
Activities only [4] with banquet	$140		$
Registration after Aug. 1, additional	$ 35		$
NAMA membership (required if not current)	$ 35		$
		TOTAL $	

Make check payable to:
Cercle des Mycologues de Montréal
Jardin botanique de Montréal
4101, rue Sherbrooke Est
Montréal (Québec) Canada
H1X 2B2

By signing this document, I agree to hold harmless the CMAQ, the CMM and the NAMA, its administrators, officers and members in regards to any civil liability and/or any damage linked to any accident, injury, loss or sickness that could result from any activity or directions of the CMAQ, the CMM or the NAMA. I acknowledge that consumption of mushrooms may be hazardous to my health and/or the health of my family and I assume the sole responsibility thereof.

Date: _____

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More informationand forms at
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Remember—postage from the U.S. to Canada is $.60.

1. Including single occupation lodging on August 29, 39, and 31, banquet on August 31, and eight other meals, lectures, excursions. Single bed with sink only. Shared bathrooms (lavatories and showers) on each floor.
2. Staying in a parent's room (bring sleeping bag) August 29, 30, and 31, banquet and eight other meals, lectures, excursions.
3. Additional fees for lodging August 28 and three more meals.
4. Lectures and excursios. Without meals nor lodging. Meals available at Cafeteria at reasonable prices.

BOOK REVIEW

Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard: The Mysterious World of Mushrooms, Molds, and Mycologists
Nicholas P. Money
Oxford University Press, 2002
ISBN 0-19-515457-6 (Hardcover)

Last summer, I was fortunate to attend the 7th International Mycological Congress, in Oslo, Norway. Most of the roughly 450 talks were presented in half-day sessions with suitably dense titles, like "Character evolution in ascomycetes: phylogenetic approaches employing molecular and morphological data," "Cell wall: molecular organization and biosynthesis," and "Taxonomic aspects of *Ophiostoma* and *Ceratocystis* and their relationships with hosts, vectors, and effects on international trade." However, one session dared to differ—"Sex and murder: the extraordinary fungal life cycle." It featured presentations focused on ink cap sex, sexless super guns, and bug murder in the rainforest. Organizer of the session was Nik Money, a transplanted Englishman, now in mycological residence at Miami University, Ohio.

With the IMC-7 session for background, it came as little surprise that the opening chapter of this new book recounted Money's memories of a stinkhorn hunt, complete with visions of "some degenerate . . . hiding under the needles and . . . evidently aroused by the experience," perhaps part of "a colony of sexual deviants fixated upon live burial." Although the subject of sex reappears many times throughout the nine chapters of the book, the images used are much less evocative than those in the opening pages.

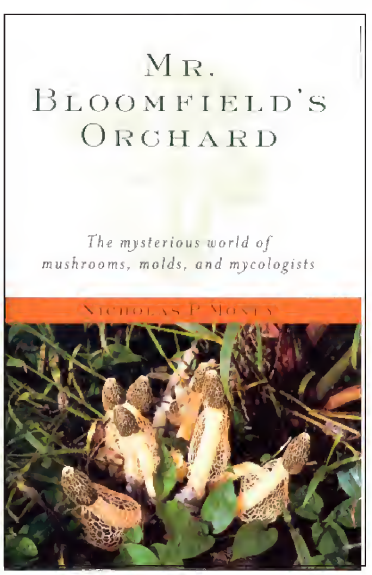
Each chapter is a stand-alone essay, with no obvious thread connecting the chapters other than their focus on fungi and those who study them. Thus, there is no need to feel compelled to read the chapters in order or to cover them all in one sitting. Titles and topics include "Offensive Phalli and Frigid Caps" (stinkhorn hunting, diversity of gasteromycetes, and mechanisms of spore release); "Insidious Killers" (human mycoses—diseases caused by fungi); "What Lies Beneath" (hyphal form of fungi and how they grow); "Metamorphosis" (ascomycete diversity, including yeasts, molds, parasites, lichens, morels, and truffles); "The Odd Couple' (biographical sketches of mycologists A. H. R. Buller and C. G. Lloyd, both lifelong bachelors though not a "couple"); "Ingold's Jewels" (tales of the aquatic microfungi that form interestingly shaped spores, decompose leaves, and were discovered and studied by Terence Ingold, plus chytrids, water molds, and mechanisms of zoospore release); "Siren Songs"' (the fascinating roles of hormones in fungal reproduction); "Angels of Death" (mushroom poisoning, black mold in buildings, biological warfare, and other aspects of fungal toxins); and "Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard" (Irish potato famine, rusts, other fungi that attack plants, and why the orchard is important enough to be used for the book's title).

These are all interesting topics that convey a good sense of what it is to be a fungus in the broad sense of the word (many of the organisms discussed, such as water molds, are now thought not to be "true" fungi). However, I feel that the "dark side" of fungi is over-emphasized, providing more fodder for the widespread impression of fungi as unspeakable menaces to our well-being. To the contrary, the vast majority of fungi do nothing to harm us and, in fact, are essential cogs in the ecosystems upon which we all depend—for example, the fungi we have domesticated for useful purposes (think penicillin, bread, bleu cheese, and beer).

The writing is clear, easy to understand, laced with humor. It reveals Money's passion for fungi and makes for enjoyable reading. The text is accompanied by black-and-white illustrations—mostly photos of mycologists and unfortunates afflicted by fungal diseases, and simple line drawings of fungal structures. They are effective, though not terribly exciting. Color photographs or paintings of the mushrooms and other macrofungi discussed, or scenes such as the woodland where the stinkhorn hunt was held would have been welcome additions.

Most mushroom hunters would get greater enjoyment from their hobby if they understood more about the biology of their quarry. Here's a painless way to get some of that knowledge. This book is an entertaining introduction to many aspects of fungal biology, accessible to and recommended for all.

—Steve Trudell,
Seattle, Washington



The book costs $26 and can be ordered from www.oup.com.

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Newsletter of the North American Mycological Association
THE MYCOPHILE

Mushroom of the Month:

Cortinarius verrucisporus

Thiers & Smith

There are a number of mushrooms that appear to be evolving into simpler forms in a truffle-like manner. They are beginning to develop shorter stems, more rounded shapes, remaining covered by soil most of their lives and losing the ability to forcefully eject their spores. Such fungi are called "sequestrate" or "secotioid." This Cortinarius is one in the evolving state.

Found in the PNW montaine regions during morel season, one discovers it only by finding bumps in the soil as you would boletus buttons. It is easily recognized by the very heavy, silken veil that extends from the cap clear to the base of the very short stem. (Most *Cortinarius* sp. have lighter, easily broken, cobwebby veils.) The caps are yellow orange to light orangy brown. The spore mass is very heavy and a deep rusty brown. The spores are more heavily roughened than many *Cortinarius* species. It is considered rare, and more locations are being sought.

Photo by Judy Roger